

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., November 28, 1882.

A. Landon Snowden, Esq.

Supt. U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:-

Referring to your letter of the 16th instant in which you state that in your judgment all Mexican dollars should be refined before being manufactured into ingots and that a refining charge should be imposed, I have to state that ever since the Mint at New Orleans was reopened and the purchase of silver commenced at that place, Mexican dollars have been purchased almost daily and that no complaint has ever been received

at this office from that institution nor any intimation that a refining charge should be imposed, but on the contrary the Melter and Refiner of that Mint states that he has experienced no difficulty whatever in working these coins and making ingots perfectly ductile and satisfactory in every respect. I could not therefore see why if one institution which has been purchasing these coins continuously for nearly three years, could make ductile ingots from them, the same could not be done at your Mint without refining.

It is but proper to state that the Melter and Refiner at the New Orleans Mint, admits that one or two counterfeit dollars of soft solder or type

metal in a thousand pieces, would produce blistering, so-called fish scales and ^{brittleness} jewelry. I stated that the charge would not be imposed unless such pieces were contained, leaving the matter discretionary with you and conditional with the character of the coins.

As inquiries have been received from parties who desire to sell and deliver Mexican dollars in case no refining charge is imposed, I have (in view of the facts stated in your letter that if ~~charge~~ ^{loss} charge is not imposed, it is likely to entail considerable loss upon the government, not only in the working of refractory metal but in the losses resulting from subsequent refining which may be

necessary at the expense of the government) decided to notify sellers of silver that Mexican dollars will in future be liable to a toughening charge, these coins being standard ^{and} above, under Section 3524, Revised Statutes, a refining charge proper cannot be levied, but when they contain metals which render them unfit for coinage are liable to a toughening charge, which is provided for in the regulations ^{and} to be only imposed when the operation is actually performed.

Very respectfully,

R. A. Preston

Acting Director.

1101

A. D. M.

Wash. D. C.

Nov 28/82

B. S. Preston

Mexican Dollars will
be liable hereafter,
to a toughening
charge. - under
Section 3524, Re-
vised Statutes.

[P.S. Dec 1, Letter filed
herein, correcting
2 clerical errors.]



[Abstract:] Mexican Dollars will be liable, hereafter, to a toughening charge... 1101

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As inquiries have been received from parties who desire to sell and deliver Mexican dollars in case no refining charge is imposed, I have, (in view of the facts stated in your letter that if such charge is not imposed, it is likely to entail considerable loss upon the government, not only in the working of refractory metal but in the losses resulting from subsequent refining which may be necessary at the expense of the government), decided to notify sellers of silver that Mexican dollars will in future be liable to a toughening charge, these coins being standard and above, under section 3524, Revised Statutes, a refining charge proper cannot be levied, but when they contain metals which render them unfit for coinage are liable to a toughening charge, which is provided for in the regulations and to be only imposed when the operation is actually performed.

Very respectfully,
R.E. Preston
Acting Director.